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JUL 27 2007

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of  
Robert J. Mills, et al.  
Application No. 10/710,723  
Filed: July 30, 2004  
Attorney Docket No. 03130.0012.PCUS00

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed April 26, 2007, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The application became abandoned for failure to timely file a reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 to the final Office action of October 24, 2006. This decision precedes the mailing of a Notice of Abandonment. On April 26, 2007, the present petition was filed.

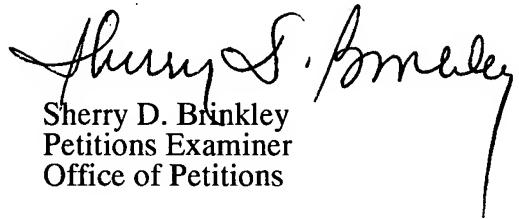
The proposed reply required for consideration of a petition to revive must be a Notice of Appeal (and appeal fee required by 37 CFR 41.20(b)(2), an amendment that *prima facie* places the application in condition for allowance, a Request for Continued Examination and submission (37 CFR 1.114), or the filing of a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b). See MPEP 711.03(c)(III)(A)(2).

The present petition satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that petitioner has supplied (1) the reply in the form of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee of \$790; (2) the petition fee of \$1,500; and (3) an adequate statement of unintentional delay.

It is noted that a three-month extension of time was paid on April 26, 2007. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136 are available only if asked for prior to or with the response. In no case, however, may an applicant respond later than the maximum time period set by statute. Accordingly, if the question of abandonment arises when the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 can no longer be used, then the application is abandoned when the unextended time for response has expired. Since, no extension of time fees are due on a petition for revival, the \$1,020 extension fee paid with the present petition is being credited to counsel's deposit account.

This application is being referred to Technology Center AU 3745 for processing of the RCE and for appropriate action by the Examiner in the normal course of business on the amendment submitted in accordance with 37 CFR 1.114.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204. Inquiries relating to further prosecution should be directed to the Technology Center.

  
Sherry D. Brinkley  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions